

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2908

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: RUIZ GIMENEZ' VIEWS

REF: MADRID 2788

1. RUIZ GIMENEZ AND TWO OF HIS COLLEAGUES FROM HIS LEFT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (IZQUIERDA DEMOCRATICA) CAME BY TO TALK WITH ME YESTERDAY ABOUT THE POLITICAL SCENE. HE SEEMED ALMOST DEFENSIVE, EVEN APOLOGETIC, WITH RESPECT TO THE COORDINACION DEMOCRATICA (PLATA-JUNTA) AND SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME EXPLAINING WHY THEY WERE NOT "CRAZY" TO HAVE GONE INTO THIS LIMITED MECHANISM FOR COOPERATION THAT INCLUDES
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THE COMMUNISTS. HE INDICATED THAT THE CONDITIONS WHICH

HIS PARTY AND GIL ROBLES' OTHER CD MINI-PARTY, THE FPD, HAD PLACED UPON ENTRY MIGHT EVEN PREVENT THE PLATA-JUNTA FROM COMING TO LIFE. THE CONDITION THAT THE PLATA-JUNTA MUST EXPLICITLY ESCHEW VIOLENCE WOULD DRIVE OUT CERTAIN EXTREMIST GROUPS, SUCH AS THE MCE (MOVIMIENTO COMUNISTA ESPANOL). ANOTHER CONDITION MIGHT POSE DIFFICULTIES FOR THE COMMUNISTS, THAT REQUIRING THAT THE PLATA-JUNTA TAKE ANY DECISIONS BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, SOMETHING THAT WOULD GIVE THE MODERATES A VETO. (WE NOTE IT WOULD ALSO GIVE THE PCE A VETO.)

2. RUIZ GIMENEZ SAID THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR THE OPPOSITION TO DIALOGUE WITH THE GOS REFORMIST ELEMENTS AND THAT HE THOUGHT THE SOCIALISTS OF FELIPE GONZALEZ WERE READY TO DO THIS, AFTER NOW HAVING PROTECTED THEIR LEFT FLANK BY JOINING THE PLATA-JUNTA. HE CITED AREILZA, GARRIGUES, COMMERCE MINISTER CALVO SOTELO', AND SYNDICAL MINISTER MARTIN VILLA AS THE KIND OF PEOPLE WITH WHOM IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DIALOGUE, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER. HE ADDED THAT HE STILL PREFERRED TO THINK OF FRAGA AMONG THE REFORMERS. TO BE FAIR, FRAGA HAD THE MOST DIFFICULT JOB OF ALL, RESPONSIBLE NOT ONLY FOR PUSHING REFORM BUT FOR MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER. IN ANY EVENT, THIS DIALOGUE SHOULD MOVE FORWARD, NOT WITH THE PLATA-JUNTA (WHICH WE NOTE WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE GOVT BECAUSE OF THE COMMUNIST MEMBERSHIP), BUT WITH INDIVIDUAL OPPOSITION FIGURES. HE CLAIMED THAT PRIOR TO THE FORMATION OF PLATA-JUNTA THERE HAD ONLY BEEN A TENTATIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE GOS IN THE PERSON OF AREILZA.

3. ON THE ISSUE OF LEGALIZATION OF THE COMMUNISTS, HE THOUGHT IT WAS NECESSARY TO FIND A HALF-WAY HOUSE AND RUIZ GIMENEZ GROPED FOR FORMULAS INCLUDING LEAVING IT UP TO THE TRIBUNALS TO DECIDE WHETHER A PARTY HAD VIOLATED THE PARTY STATUTE SO THAT NO PARTY WOULD BE AUTOMATICALLY PROSCRIBED OR USING THE WORKERS COMMISSIONS OR EVEN TIerno GALVAN'S PSP AS A GO-BETWEEN FOR THE PCE DURING AN INTERREGNUM PERIOD UNTIL THE PCE WAS LEGALIZED.

4. IN ALL THIS, THERE WAS NO MENTION OF THE OLD SLOGANS
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OF "RUPTURE" OR "CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY" BUT RATHER AN EMPHASIS ON AN EARLY REFERENDUM THAT WOULD LEGITIMIZE AND SET THE NECESSARY REFORMS. GIVEN THE SITUATION HE WOULD PREFER A REFERENDUM IN SUMMER BUT THAT WAS NOT SO IMPORTANT AS HAVING THE GOVT SHORTLY ANNOUNCE THE TERMS OF THE REFERENDUM AND PERMIT POLITICAL PARTIES TO FUNCTION OPENLY IN ADVANCE OF IT. IN THIS CIRCUMSTANCE A REFERENDUM IN THE FALL WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE.

5. IN OTHER MATTERS, HE INDICATED THAT THE UNION BETWEEN HIS GROUP AND THAT OF GIL ROBLES WAS ALMOST AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT. HIS COLLEAGUES EXPRESSED HOPE THAT EVENTUALLY THEY MIGHT GET TOGETHER AGAIN WITH ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA'S DISSIDENT FACTION WHICH BOLTED THE ID IN OPPOSITION TO THE PLATA-JUNTA BUT NOTED THERE WAS A DISTINCT DIFFERENCE OF APPROACH ON THE STRATEGY THAT THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS SHOULD FOLLOW. RUIZ GIMENEZ'S GROUP SAW THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AS AN OPPOSITION GROUP WHILE ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA THOUGHT TO ATTRACT PEOPLE TO THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WHO HAD ONCE BEEN PART OF FRANCOISM.

6. WE CAN ONLY JUDGE FROM THIS CONVERSATION THAT RUIZ GIMENEZ, IN RESPECT OF PLATA-JUNTA, FEELS HIMSELF TO HAVE HELPED CREATE A MONSTER THAT HAS CAUSED A BAD REACTION IN BOTH THE EXTREME RIGHT AND THE GOVT, AND THAT HE IS TALKING IN MUCH LESS DOGMATIC TERMS THAN IN THE PAST. A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE GOS AND THE OPPOSITION IS A GOOD IDEA. BUT IT WOULD PLACE AREILZA IN A DIFFICULT POSITION IF HE WERE TO BE THE ONLY MAN ON THE OTHER END OF THE DIALOGUE.

7. FINALLY RUIZ GIMENEZ INDICATED HE WAS RECOMMENDING AGAINST ANY INVOLVEMENT BY HIS PEOPLE IN POSSIBLE MAY 1 DEMONSTRATIONS.
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